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Georgia College's Student Newspaper

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LEARNING CENTER'S UNSUNG HERO MR. DEE

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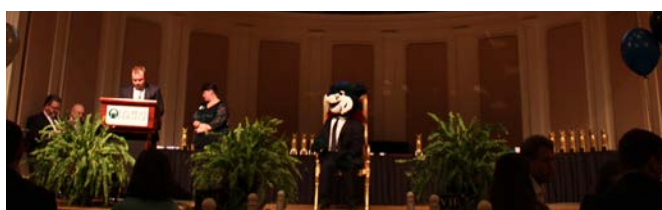
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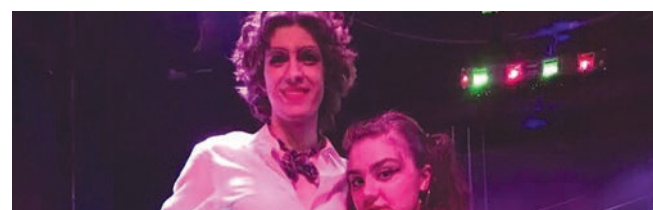
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Interfaith dinner educates students on spring holidays

**Ashley
Boyle**

Assistant News Editor

The familiar broth scent of matzo ball soup pervades the air, inviting the dinner guests to the table. The buffet table features a smorgasbord of traditional foods eaten during the Jewish Passover.

GC's Interfaith Dinner is a meal with a mission. Hosted primarily by GC Hillel, GC's Jewish student life organization, its purpose is to educate guests about religious spring holidays, such as Passover and Easter.

The tables are minimally decorated: a few pieces of egg-shaped Easter chocolates and plastic frogs surround unlit candle sticks. The relics remind diners of the religious significance of the gathering. Like most holiday meals, the group is informally divided between adults and students: a makeshift 'kid's table.'

On the first two nights of Passover, Jews celebrate with the Seder, a ritualistic dinner.

"We can't eat any food that rises, like bread, because when the Jews were fleeing Egypt, they didn't have time to make bread," said junior Maryn Perlson, a special education major and member of Hillel. "That's why we have the matzo bread that doesn't rise."

Matzo, a large rectangular shaped bread, is the Jewish lovechild of a Saltine cracker and Indian naan bread.

Each food in the meal has a special significance to the Jewish tradition, and the traditional ritual involves washing hands and praying in a particular system. Seder translates to "order" in English.

Potatoes are soaked in salt water to signify tears shed, and charoset, which is an apple dish sweetened with honey and spiced with cinnamon, reminds guests to think of the sweet times.

This particular event is not intended to be a full-length traditional Seder

dinner, which is a highly ritualistic meal involving prayer and recitation, but instead is a sampling of the foods eaten on the first nights of Passover.

"The purpose of the meal is to educate people about Passover and other spring holidays," said senior Jessica Kleinman, an economics major and president of GC Hillel. "We are promoting diversity on campus."

In the heart of the Bible belt, non-Christian religions tend to take a backseat. Kleinman said that some students have informed her that she is the first Jewish person they have met. The Interfaith Dinner is an opportunity to unite people of various faith backgrounds and start a dialogue.

About seven years ago, a group not affiliated with GC planted Easter eggs filled with anti-Semitic and racist messages around campus. The creation of the Interfaith Dinner was GC's response to this act, as it became apparent that hate stems from misconceptions about religions and ethnic groups.

Students attending this year's dinner sampled some traditional Jewish Passover meals, then engaged in a brief discussion of the holidays that major religions celebrate in spring. At past Interfaith dinners, Rabbis and pastors from the community have come to speak, but this dinner was student-led.

Attendees learned about cultures that were not their own.

"Growing up, I went to bar mitzvahs and bat mitzvahs, but I didn't know the meaning behind these traditions," said junior Christopher Nedza, an accounting major. "I didn't know much about the food or the Jews' escape from the Pharaoh."

The meal opens a dialogue to discuss belief systems, find common ground and celebrate differences.

"By learning about other religions, I get a chance to reflect on my religion and what it means to me," Kleinman said. "You know, I think, 'Why do I believe the things I do? Why do I practice these traditions?'"



Matzo ball soup, (top) matzo bread (middle) and haroset, (bottom) which is a mixture of apples, walnuts and wine, are all Jewish foods served at traditional Passover meals.



UNSUNG HEROES

Donald "Mr. Dee" Fuller

**Elyssa
Gerber**
Staff Writer

Most students would not be able to guess that the lively tutor clarifying their math problems in the Learning Center is actually 73 years old. Donald Fuller, better known as Mr. Dee, has an animated, youthful presence that inspires students every day.

Since 2001, Mr. Dee has worked in the Learning Center helping students with their homework. He covers everything from physics to mathematics.

"When I first started here, the Learning Center was just a little cubby hole on the first floor of Lanier," Mr. Dee said. "I was really needed, and I would come in four days a week and stay until eight or nine o'clock at night. The school has evolved so much since then—the school itself and the students."

When Mr. Dee was one-year-old, his family moved to Milledgeville from Pennsylvania because his father got a job as head of the business department at GC.

Eventually, Mr. Dee graduated from the University of Georgia with an English degree, received his master's in English, then joined the Navy and taught English at the Naval Academy.

He met his wife, Katherine "Kathe" Mclean, through his mother.

"I was still in the Navy, and my mother told me there was this great girl in town," Mr. Dee said. "I wanted a girl to come home to when I got out of the Navy, so I just wrote her a letter out of the blue, and we started writing

to each other for a few months."

When he came back to Milledgeville after returning from the Navy, she was there waiting for him. They will celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary this year.

After returning home, he went back to school, this time focusing on mathematics. He taught math at what is now the University of North Georgia in Gainesville for 27 years.

Mr. Dee also has a strong interest in the news. He said he reads *The Colonnade* every week and underlines what he finds interesting so that he can go home and show his wife.

Mr. Dee keeps his newspapers in a briefcase, but he will eagerly hop out of his chair to get them and show you which articles stood out enough to be underlined.

In the mornings, Mr. Dee reads *The New York Times* online while Kathe reads *The Washington Post*. They both send each other any articles that they find interesting.

As for Mr. Dee's energetic demeanor, physical fitness is a tremendous contributor.

He started running when he was in graduate school in 1965. He was writing his master's thesis in English and did not have time for sports, so he found something that he could do any time of day at any place.

"They did not even make running shoes back when I started, but discovering running was like taking a magic pill," Mr. Dee said. "If they did make pills that made you feel like that, they'd be illegal!"

Due to hip replacement surgery and back



Madi Harty / Staff Photographer

Mr. Dee tutors students in math.

issues, his running career has to come to an end, but this has not stopped him from continuing to be active. He walks three miles every night and goes to BodyPlex. His wife also takes walks and does Pilates.

"Going out and least walking for a half hour every day changes everything," Mr. Dee said. "I am convinced that once you start making yourself do it, you will want to on your own. It's just getting over that first hurdle."

Students and faculty have taken notice of the spirit that Mr. Dee adds to the school.

"Mr. Dee is a living legacy with the LC," said Jeanne Haslam, director of the Learning Center. "He is so dedicated to our students and their success. Every single student who has the pleasure of his help walks away with better content knowledge, genuine encouragement and increased confidence with their subject matter."

Due to his teaching and tutoring experience, he also helps to improve the skills of the other tutors in the LC.

"He takes such interest in his fellow tutors as well and provides them with wonderful insights into the world of math and higher education, mentors them in their work and has blessed us all with his devotion to GC," Haslam said.

The other tutors are grateful to have him around.

"Mr. Dee brings a great energy into the Learning Center," said sophomore Halle Jankowski, an accounting major who tutors in the LC. "He is eager to help students with any math-based questions they may have."

Any student who is struggling with mathematics, or who just wants to have an insightful conversation, should go to the Learning Center Monday, Tuesday or Thursday and sit down with Mr. Dee.



Madi Harty / Staff Photographer

Mr. Dee helps a student understand her homework in the Learning Center.

Bobcat Awards recognize students' volunteer work

**Lindsay
Stevens**
Staff Writer

The Bobcat Awards presented 38 awards and eight scholarships to GC student leaders and student organizations to honor their contributions to GC and Milledgeville on April 3.

"The Bobcat Awards serves as an opportunity to acknowledge and showcase the great work student leaders and student organizations are doing and the impact they are having on campus and in the community," said Jonathan Meyer, Campus Life's assistant director for business operations.

Senior Mary Beth Hall, an outdoor education major, was awarded the Female Volunteer of the Year award. Hall said she achieved most of her service hours through Young Life by spending time with high school students in the Baldwin County area, planning meetings, attending events and participating in retreats.

"Being the recipient of this award means so much to me," Hall said. "It allows me to represent the organization of Young Life, which I love dearly and have invested my time into over the past four years. I hope that this award inspires others to become part of



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

The awards have been renamed the Dr. Bruce Harshbarger Bobcat Awards.

an organization where they can give their time away for the benefit of others."

Hall also received the Female Fraternal Outstanding Service award, which is given to a member of Greek Life with the most service hours.

Senior Ansley Jones, a marketing major, received the Senior Service Award, an award given to the senior at GC with the most tracked hours in Give Pulse. Jones has volunteered 1,100 hours since her freshman year and attributed these hours to

having unpaid internships with nonprofits, dedicating her time to GC Miracle and being the philanthropy chair of her sorority, Phi Mu.

"It honestly is really cool to me that I got this award because it's not about a single thing I did, but about how I did my college career by volunteering and participating in the organizations I love," Jones said.

GC Shelter Buddies, an organization that volunteers at the Baldwin County Animal Shelter, was awarded Student Organization of the Year.

"We have continually volunteered more hours every year as a club, fundraised even more, and our size has grown exponentially," said sophomore Tate Pointer, a marketing major and GC Shelter Buddies vice president of recruitment. "Every year, we are creating more of an impact with the Baldwin County Animal Shelter, and it is amazing to see the lives of the animals we help transform and see them go into loving homes."

The winners of the most prestigious awards at the ceremony are invited to the Bobcat Winner's Circle Dinner at the Old Governor's Mansion.

"The Bobcat Winner's Circle Dinner is a special presidential dinner with Dr. Dorman in the Old Governor's Mansion in honor of the students that are recipients of the program's most distinguished awards, which are symbolized by the iconic Bobcat statues," Meyers said.

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Parking tickets break hearts and break the bank

**Olivia
Parker**
Contributing Writer

If you have frustrations about parking and tickets at GC, you are not alone: 20,000 parking tickets were issued to students in fall 2017.

GC students who drive to campus are highly susceptible to receiving parking tickets. One student, junior Anslee Broome, an education major and tutor in the Math Lab, has received seven parking tickets.

“Parking at GC is insanity,” Broome said. She received one ticket for parking in front of a fire hydrant on her way to work. She said the yellow painted curb was very dull at the time, and she was unaware that she could not park in that spot. Broome expressed her irritation because while she was working for GC, it was issuing her a parking ticket.

Ben Fleck, a student employee for Parking and Transportation, also received a parking ticket before he started this job his sophomore year. Since working here, he has learned valuable tips to avoid getting any more parking tickets.

“Make sure the lot you are parking in is the right permit type,” Fleck said. “Utilize the Irwin Street lot; that is massive. A shuttle will pick you up and drive you to The Max or library. Also, the Napier Lot has two rows of commuter space that [are] usually empty.”

According to the GC parking website, the following five parking tips will help students avoid getting a ticket: –

1. Register for and pick up your permit—

you’ve already paid for it through your student fees.

2. Hang your permit from your rearview mirror — and leave it there.

3. Park in lots you are permitted to. Signs are at the entrance of each lot.

4. Don’t park where you shouldn’t. (Shuttle stops, fire lanes, grassy areas, curbs, reserved spaces, etc.)

5. Only park in timed spaces for as long as you are allowed.

While these instructions are simple, when you do not give yourself an ample amount of time to circle the campus to find an empty parking spot, especially ones without time limits, you might have to take a chance and park in forbidden spots.

“If you have parked in an employee lot before and didn’t get a ticket, it doesn’t mean you won’t the next time,” Fleck said.

Broome and other students who have chosen the last resort of parking in the employee lots have received tickets. They had no other choice but to park there because they knew they would be late to class or even miss the class entirely.

The two-hour time restriction on parking spots aggravates students. Broome has not parked in a two-hour spot in over a year.

“I will never be anywhere for only two hours,” Broome explained. “The GC Police make a living off of two-hour parking tickets.”

John Bowen, senior manager of Parking and Transportation Services, understands the struggle that comes with the two-hour time limit.

“The city manages those spaces and decides what to do with them,” Bowen said. “GC would love for them to be open and untimed.”

To most people, the obvious fix to this



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

GC Parking and Transportation says that perimeter lots are underused.

problem would be to build a parking deck. Bowen was discouraged from looking into the building of a parking deck because of the extreme cost and upkeep it would require.

Constructing a parking deck that contains 500 to 600 spaces could cost the city of Milledgeville thousands of dollars per parking space and would require constant maintenance and energy.

While students are frustrated that they pay for a parking permit included in their tuition but have trouble finding parking spaces, Bowen and Fleck both explained how perimeter lots are under-used.

Parking and Transportation officials at GC do not think it is completely necessary that the school build a parking deck unless they see that all of the available lots are being used

to their capacity.

In addition to the perimeter lot on Irwin Street that has no time limit, Parking and Transportation has recently added 120 shared commuter and guest parking spots in the Centennial Center lot. These lots are less than a mile walk from campus.

Bowen admitted that the reason for the substantial amount of tickets given in the fall semester was due to the officers trying to be more consistent and thorough each day.

Although the parking spots on campus are difficult to come by, especially spots without a time limit, there are alternatives that Parking and Transportation encourage frustrated students to use so they can avoid more pricey parking tickets ranging from \$30 to over \$100.

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Concussions not among GC's most common injuries

Isaiah Smith
Co-Sports Editor
&
Mitchell Lierman
Contributing Writer

GC's athletic trainers addressed around 20 concussions in 2017, but strict protocols have improved recovery time and prevented potential fatalities caused by second-impact syndrome.

Head athletic trainer Paul Higgs said that each year, GC's varsity sports see fewer than 10 concussions.

"It's less than 5 percent of the injuries we see, which is about standard for athletics in general," Higgs explained. "I think we're within the norms of concurrence, but the challenge is whether they're reported adequately."

For intramural and club sports, the number of reported concussions is even lower. Caitlin Moeller, GC's athletic trainer for rec sports, said only four concussions have been reported in 2018, but 12 were

reported last year.

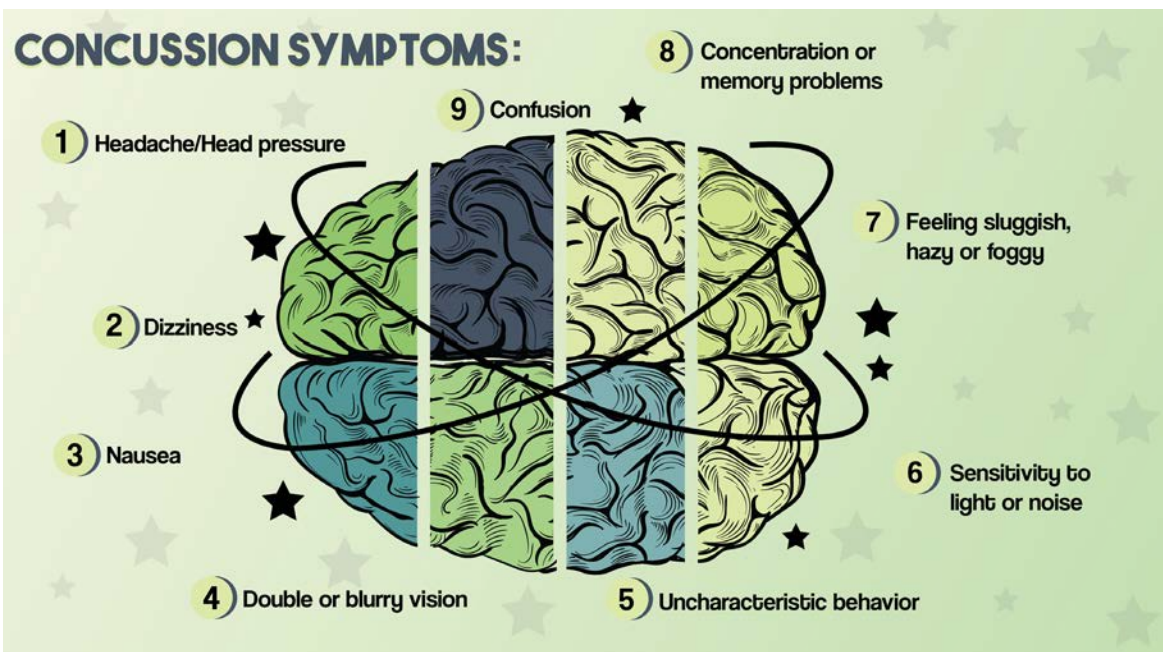
"We see more concussions in club sports than intramurals," Moeller said. "This year hasn't been as bad as last year. We've had fewer rugby and men's soccer matches than last year, so that's just up to chance."

GC's varsity athletes undergo a strict concussion protocol that begins before an athlete has even been concussed.

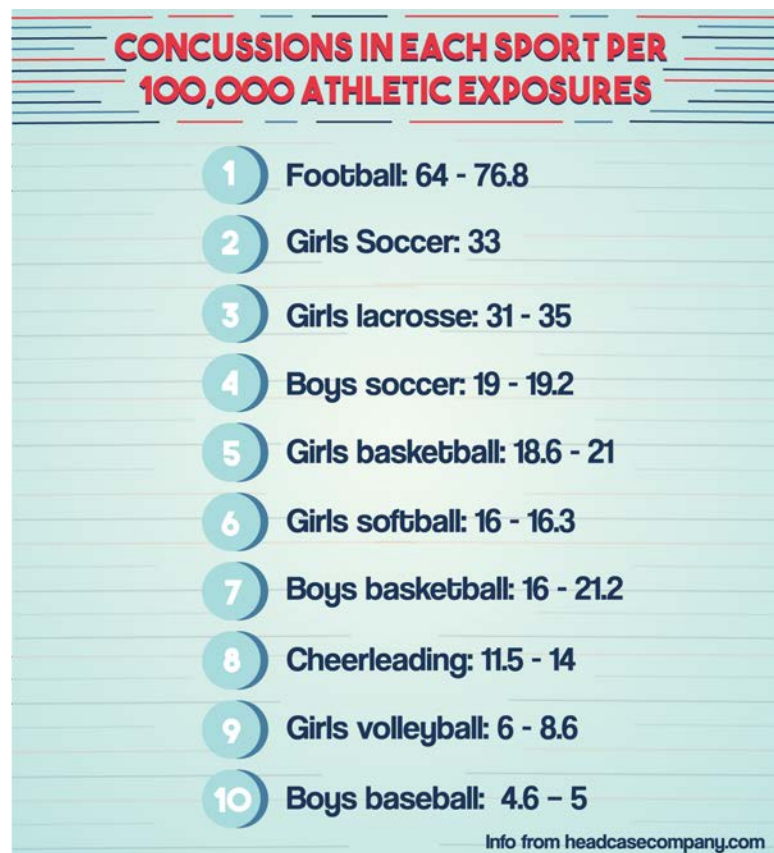
"Every athlete in the high-risk sports takes a computerized test that checks memory, sequencing and reaction time, and we get an idea of what your brain does on a good day," Higgs said. "So if there's ever a concussion that happens during the year, we've got something to compare it to."

Higgs said the test plots numbers on graphs to show a change in the athlete's brain function, and it can also be administered to athletes recovering from concussions to show them how quickly their brain is healing.

GC and the NCAA enforce strict protocols that require athletes



Rachael Alesia / Assistant Graphic Designer



Rachael Alesia / Assistant Graphic Designer

suspected of having experienced a concussion to be removed from competition immediately and evaluated by a trainer. Athletes may not return to the game, even if an evaluation suggests they do not have a concussion.

This rule prevents an athlete from sustaining another blow to the brain that could cause second-impact syndrome, which has a 50 percent chance of causing immediate death.

"We may not prevent the first injury, but we can prevent the first injury from getting worse," Higgs said.

GC's club sport athletes also undergo a preliminary test before competition; intramural athletes do not. Moeller said all athletes must be removed from competition and evaluated just like varsity athletes.

According to 2015 research from the Centers for Disease Control, Americans are diagnosed with 3.8 million concussions per year.

Concussions are also not always the result of a direct hit to the head.

"You have two categories of mechanisms to cause concussions: direct impact and indirect impact, and that's referring to the brain and not necessarily to the head," Moeller explained. "If someone got hit in the head with a rugby ball, that would be direct impact. But

when you jump up and someone takes your legs out and your head snaps back, sometimes you can still get concussed whether or not your head hits the ground."

Once a concussion is confirmed, Higgs said athletes may experience any of more than 20 symptoms, including lingering headaches, sensitivity to light and sound, confusion, memory problems and problems processing ideas.

"Sometimes it may be three or four symptoms standing out, or sometimes it could be ten symptoms that are just nagging and won't go away," Higgs said. "We try to evaluate that through some tests we do by challenging what the brain does and checking to see how the brain is working. That gives us an idea of where they are, and we can map out a plan to recovery."

Senior Austin Simpson, a business management major, played football at Buford High School but quit the game at the beginning of his senior year after being diagnosed with his third concussion.

Along with having a sensitivity to light and sound, Simpson added that concussions also caused him to be anxious and irritable.

Moeller stressed the importance of other athletes speaking up if they notice a drastic change in a teammate's behavior following a

hit or fall.

"What I've noticed is that sometimes after a major, hit teammates and friends will come up and tell me that they don't think someone is OK," Moeller said. "There's a lot more of that in sports culture with people looking out for each other."

GC's varsity athletes also complete a class that helps identify concussion symptoms.

The average athlete recovers from a concussion in seven days. During this time, athletes must avoid excessive amounts of schoolwork and electronics.

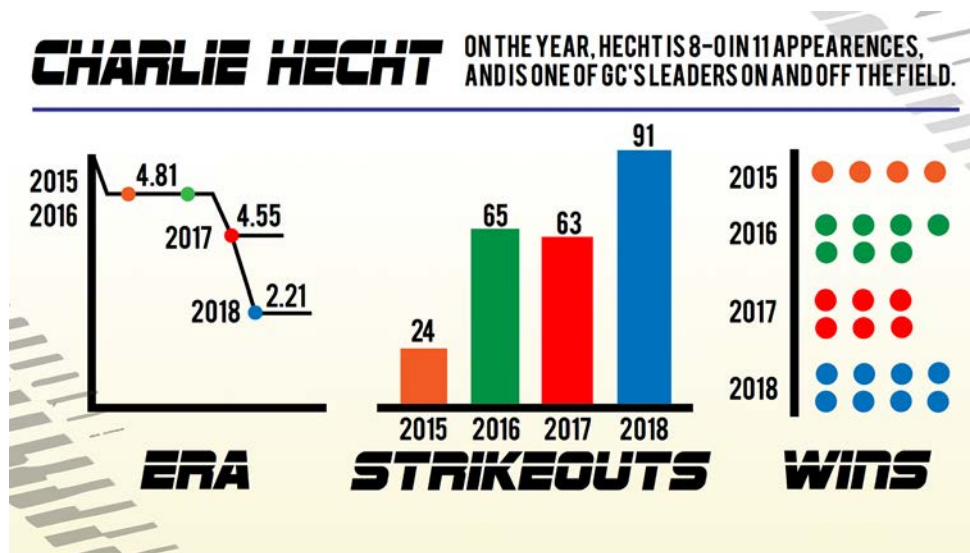
While recovering, Moeller and Higgs said all athletes receive daily evaluations. Some varsity athletes may resume exercise protocols in less than seven days.

"There's a lot of research showing now that exercise is OK as long as its supervised and controlled," Higgs said.

With so much emphasis being placed on finding ways to keep athletes in high-contact sports safe, Higgs said he feels GC's sports are as safe as they can be.

"In football you can teach better techniques or change the helmet type," Higgs said, "but with the sports we have, I don't know if you can do a lot to change the techniques to make them safer."

Undefeated Hecht propelling Bobcats to top of PBC



Kristen Pack / Graphic Designer

Caroline Snider
Staff Writer

From the mound of John Kurtz Field, Charlie Hecht dedicates much time and hard work to leading the GC baseball team to a winning season. A senior from Johns Creek, Ga., Hecht will graduate with a degree in marketing. The 6-foot-2-inch right-hander has thrived each year on the mound.

Hecht started playing T-ball when he was 4 years old, developing a love for the game of baseball during his childhood. His pitching career began at the age of eight.

A journey of ups and downs has led him to be the GC Friday night starting pitcher. Through dedication and perseverance, Hecht has achieved a phenomenal record of 8-0 on the season with a 2.21 ERA.

Growing up with a family lake house on Lake Sinclair, Hecht passed by GC's beautiful campus with each trip to the lake. This sparked his interest in GC at an early age.

While going through a normal recruiting process, Hecht attended a showcase at Georgia Gwinnett College where the GC coaching staff noticed him and asked him

to visit GC.

"I came on a visit but didn't need to because I knew I already liked the school and coaches," Hecht said. "I liked the environment and saw that they won a lot."

Hecht accepted the offer to play for GC and has been a leader on and off the field ever since.

"Charlie drives the energy bus when he doesn't pitch," said head coach Jason Eller. "He has a great attitude and tremendous work ethic, and he makes everyone around him better."

His cheering for his teammates displays the type of teammate and person he is.

"He is a blast to be around on a daily basis," Eller said. "He is everything that a GC student-athlete stands for."

Hecht has blossomed over his years at GC.

"I have gained mostly mental growth and confidence on the mound," Hecht said. "The coaches have helped me understand the game better."

He also said he has learned to slow the pace of the game down and have a better focus on every pitch.

Throughout his baseball career, Hecht has attributed his success to all the people who have supported him along the way, including God, his family and his coaches.

At every Tuesday practice, he throws a bullpen to prepare for the series on Friday. In preparation for the game, Hecht said he uses a lot of visualization: "I visualize throwing my key pitch, which is a fastball low and away to both left-handed and right-handed batters."

He pictures himself throwing his key pitch for a looking strike or imagining the batter swinging through it to get ahead in the count.

The GC baseball team has obtained a position in all three Division II National Polls. They are ranked No. 10 in the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

According to Eller, the ranking will only add pressure to Hecht and the rest of the team if they allow it. However, Hecht has not let it be a distraction to him so far.

Senior teammate Brandon Purcell said Hecht's mentality makes him stand out.

"Charlie's mentality is the best I have ever seen, and I have caught a lot of guys," Purcell said. "He goes out there with a killer instinct. He is a really good leader, showing the young guys the ropes, and they follow him. When he speaks, they listen."

Despite the huge impact Hecht has had on the program, he said he could not do it without the rest of his team behind him.

"Run support is always nice," Hecht said. "This is the best overall defense I've ever got to play with, and I have a connection with everyone on the field."

Hecht's expectations are winning the regular season, the PBC tournament and finally a National Championship.

Hecht and the rest of the Bobcats are back in action Friday, April 20 at Augusta University at 6 p.m.



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Hecht sets to deliver a pitch during Friday's game against Flagler University at John Kurtz Field.

An early-season bravo for the Bravos

Isaiah Smith
Co-Sports Editor

Coming into the 2018 season, the majority of the baseball community only expected the Atlanta Braves to hover around an uninspiring .500 record for most of the year.

This year's iteration of the Braves isn't that different from the teams that have taken the field over the past couple of seasons: young, talented and inexperienced. But this team is finding ways to win games in exciting fashion.

Already this season, fans have seen some of the benefits to having the top farm system in baseball over the past few years.

Dansby Swanson, Ozzie Albies and Sean Newcomb are all beginning to look like the professionals they were hyped to be, and Atlanta's most exciting prospect, 20-year-old outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr, has already been injected into Rookie of the Year conversations despite having never played a Major League game.

Brian Snitker appears to be taking the next step as the team's manager after some questions about his ability to manage at this level last year, and his sharpness and attention

to detail has trickled down to players in all phases of the game.

Even though it's been exhilarating to watch this team's youth and unknown potential dazzle during the season's first two weeks, it's going to be equally as painful to watch them grind through a stretch when the growing pains hit.

That's why it's important for fans not to get ahead of themselves with this group. I'm not saying fans should have zero expectations for the rest of the season, just that expectations should be tempered.

NBA analyst Jalen Rose always talks about success being measured by attaining realistic

goals. For Braves Country, I encourage you all to do the same before setting yourselves up for disappointment by crowning this team World Series champions or wasting another baseball season by totally writing them off.

The Braves probably aren't going to win a division like 2005's Baby Braves. But I'm not discrediting the idea that the team will contend for a Wild Card berth.

Regardless of how the rest of the season plays out, Braves fans should know the light at the end of the tunnel should only get brighter from here, as the team is young, talented, exciting and worth watching.

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Bobcats go abroad

**Emmy
Cooper**
Staff Writer

As the spring semester nears its end, many Bobcats are packing their suitcases to go on an adventure of a lifetime.

Studying abroad is one of the many programs at GC that students should take advantage of. From a Maymester to summer program to even a full semester, GC offers many programs that can fit best with your schedule.

Assistant director of education abroad Liz Havey works with students to find the best program for them.

“Studying abroad in general is a really great opportunity for students to explore the world and get academic credit,” Havey said. “And the opportunities for professional and personal growth are enormous as far as you learn a lot about yourself and what you are made of.”

International Education Center interns Amanda Moore and Emilee

French hold information sessions every Monday through Thursday at 2 p.m. in the Bone House.

“Studying abroad builds so many skills that you wouldn’t otherwise,” Moore said. “I found when I got back that I was able to adapt to more situations and be more flexible, handle things better and communicate better.”

Both interns have spent a semester abroad and are able to use their experiences to encourage students to push themselves out of their comfort zones.

“Trying to build a life in another country, you really develop personal growth,” French said. “It made me more independent, especially when you are trying to learn other countries’ systems and feed yourself all in a place that speaks other languages.”

Senior Kylie Barber, a public health major, spent a summer studying abroad in Spain.

“It was such an eye opener, and I know that sounds so cliché, but we live in such an American bubble—especially in Milledgeville because everyone is very similar,” Barber said. “So, when you go to another country, you realize that English isn’t the only language,

and people [from other countries] love America, but we don’t take the time to learn [or] choose to respect other countries.”

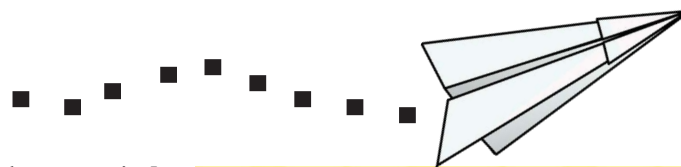
The International Education Center also offers advice on how to best prepare for studying abroad.

“Do as much research as you can as early as you can about the place you’re going to be traveling,” Havey said. “When you travel abroad, everybody else in the planet knows so much about what is going on in the U.S. compared to what we know about what’s going on in their host country. Conversations about politics, religion and economics are not taboo subjects anywhere else on the planet. That’s what real people talk about.”

Junior Liz Ann Barnett, a marketing major, is preparing to spend the month of June in Spain.

“I am really excited to explore a new country with one of my best friends,” Barnett said. “It will definitely be an experience of a lifetime.”

To celebrate those who are already enrolled or interested in an international education program, the International Education Center will be hosting a “summer send-off” on front campus on April 18.



Summer Send Off

Join us to celebrate your journey!

Wednesday, April 18

5-7 p.m.

Front Campus

Food - Games - Travel Tips - Network - Relax

Infographic courtesy of the International Education Center

The event will last from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and will have food, games and travel tips.

“Students need to know that studying abroad is going to be hard,” Moore said. “Not everything

is going to go as you planned, no matter how much you plan, but that’s the best part about it. You have to figure it out for yourself, and that’s so fun.”

Graduation Checklist



**Katie
O’Neal**
Staff Writer

Graduation is quickly approaching, and there are certain requirements seniors need to make sure they have completed along with some last minute exploring of Milledgeville before they walk across the stage.

At a minimum, every degree requires 120 hours and 39 credits at the upper division level.

“These are things that can be found on Degree Works, so I would encourage every senior to review their degree works,” said Karen Higgs, an academic advisor.

Once the graduation application is completed and the registrar’s office has reviewed it, seniors

need to check their emails from the registrar’s office. They hold graduation fairs where seniors will be able to pick up their cap and gown which is ordered through the bookstore.

At this point in the year, all seniors should have already met with their academic advisor and completed a graduation application. There is a \$45 application fee that can be paid through the registrar’s website.

Every major has some type of capstone or senior exit requirement. Whether it is a test that is administered through the testing center, a research presentation or a culminating internship experience, these should be settled. It is important for every senior to know what their specific degree requires

in terms of the exit requirement.

Tickets for the spring ceremony must be picked up from the registrar’s office. Seniors also need to make sure they have the correct address on file, so their diploma will be mailed to the correct destination. Seniors can check their addresses in PAWS under “Personal Information.”

Prior to graduating, seniors should have also completed all four legislative requirements. Completing all your requirements brings you one step closer to the cap and gown and the life that comes after graduation, including a future career.

“If you are student who is planning to find a job, and you have not started that process yet, then you need to start it ASAP,” said

Dwayne Peterson, assistant director of career development. “It can take six to nine months to find a job.”

Seniors need to schedule their senior check-in appointment with the Career Center. A career advisor can meet with seniors to discuss and find a focus. Seniors also need to write and update their resume. Resumes can be picked up at the Career Center or downloaded from the Resource Library in Career Connection.

Seniors should meet with a career advisor to review their resumes and plan for job interviews, internships or graduate school, depending on the path the senior chooses to take.

“Search strategy, resume [and] cover letter writing and interviewing skills will equip a student very well going into the job market,” Peterson

said.

Before going to job interviews, seniors should have a professional wardrobe. They should also practice their interview skills with a mock interview at the Career Center.

The Career Center offers multiple career fairs. The next career fair is April 18 in Atlanta with 168 employers.

Despite all of the academic requirements needed to graduate, senior Lindsy Burton, a special education major, said she thinks it is important to be present and make sure you do all you wanted to do while in college.

“At some point, everyone should get in the fountain and do homework on front campus,” Burton said. “Definitely spend as much time on front campus.”

DRAG SHOW: "CATEGORY IS..."

**Macy
Neal**

Contributing Writer

GC's Pride Alliance hosted their bi-annual drag show at Buffington's to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community in Milledgeville.

This semester's theme was "Category Is...", a reference to the television show "Rupaul's Drag Race." The Pride Alliance chose this theme to allow the performers to get creative and add their individual style to their performance.

"Drag is not limited to just LGBTQ+ people," said Pride Alliance president Peter Pendleton. "Drag is an art, and drag is an experience, and it can be enjoyed by everyone. It is an unforgettable experience, and I think that people just can't help but be tempted to come see what all the fuss is about."

Thursday night's turn out proved Pendleton's theory. Buffington's was packed from door to door with an energy-filled crowd, awed by each performance. Buffington's has generously provided a safe setting for this Pride tradition for several years.

It was a night that ended too soon and left the crowd cheering

for more.

Pride Alliance vice president Jackie Terry and host Dana Brigrance worked hard along with Pendleton to put the show together. The stars of the show included performers Katrina Prowess, Ammonia D, Amerys the Empress and Kara Sell.

GC student Ryan Wolf, who performed as Amerys the Empress, is a 19-year-old illustrator, choreographer, dancer and drag queen who has performed in three of GC's Pride Alliance's drag shows. Wolf said he showed a great interest in drag starting at a very young age.

"Honestly since the age of two, I was up on a table twirling in a dress," Wolf said. "I had a very free childhood. My two older sisters and wonderful mother would even call me by whatever name I wanted to be called (at the time, Katie). I would wear pajama pants on my head for hair. Drag is in my bloodstream for sure. But it wasn't until I was 17 that I officially became Amerys."

Wolf said that his favorite part about performing is interacting with the audience.

"Being open to the crowd, making eye contact with them and responding to their energy individually...It really is an interesting vantage point," Wolf said.

Wolf said he is inspired by

Donyale Luna, a supermodel from the 1960s. Luna died tragically at very young age and was well known for her energy, which hugely impacted Wolf's creation of Amerys the Empress.

Wolf first began drawing Amerys, and she eventually became his drag personality.

"It has been a long time coming," Wolf said. "I am so happy that I am here now, expressing my passion."

Tickets are always \$5 cash or \$6 through card or Venmo. All proceeds from the night go to fundraising purposes, whether it is to raise money for a charity or just for general expenses.

Most recently the funds have gone toward sending members of the GC Pride Alliance to the Creating Change Conference, a political, leadership and skills-building conference for the LGBTQ+ social justice movement.

"I had the pleasure of going on two of those trips and can confidently say that Creating Change is an unbelievable opportunity for me as a young LGBTQ+ individual trying to engage in the conversation about diversity and inclusion for individuals of all genders and sexualities," Pendleton said.

GC's Pride Alliance has meetings every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. in the Hub.



Niko Moran / Artistic Director of Pride Alliance

Performer Kara Sell and host Dana Brigrance at the show.

**Visit www.gcsucolonnade.com
to watch our video about the
ArtHealthy Festival!**



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

The perks of being a Bobcat

Brendan Borders
Staff Writer

GC students have access to many different resources during their four years in Milledgeville. From the DEN just below Magnolia Ballroom with massage chairs and a soda machine to the vinyl records and projectors that can be checked out from the library, there are numerous resources offered that the everyday Bobcat might not be aware of.

Many go through college without ever having checked out a book from the library or step foot in the DEN. These are free resources given to GC students, and yet they are underutilized by many.

One such resource is the free access to Ancestry.com, which allows users to search names to look back at family heritage.

"I did not know that [about Ancestry]," said junior Sami Montigny, a studio art major. "If they [GC administration]

are spending money to have these things or are spending money at some point to have these resources, they should make them more well known to students. I'd probably go in the library a lot more if I knew everything it offered."

Another resource at GC that many students don't know they have access to is the different studio rooms at the Ina Dillard Russell Library. There are four studio rooms that can be checked out.

There is a print studio, an anatomy and physiology studio, a presentation studio and a recording studio. All of these rooms can be checked out like a student would reserve a normal study room, except for the anatomy and physiology studio, which is only offered to students enrolled in a biology course.

To reserve a study room or any of the studio rooms, there is a module online under the library website where reservations can be made, or a student can make the reservations in person at the printing desk on the second floor.

"I feel like people don't know those resources are

available," said Lindsey Jones, a GC graduate and the Student Assistant Coordinator in the library. "Students seem unaware of what the library has to offer. I've seen people come in here, and they will be seniors, and they will say that they have never checked out a book before or that they didn't even know there was a third floor."

The main issue is that, while these resources exist to help students better their knowledge, there is a lack of advertising. These resources are only advertised on the screens around the library and on the library website, which students do not often visit.

Other underutilized but useful resources are the online database libraries that can be accessed through Galileo. Websites like Worldcat, which help students track down books at other libraries, TIME and LIFE magazine archives and even a database of old baseball cards are available through Galileo.

Students even have access to unique databases, like one full of Sanborn Fire Insurance



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Kendall Crowe rents out equipment at the Circulation Desk.

Maps. Fire Insurance Maps are blueprints with every excruciating detail that have been posted online of old buildings across the state of Georgia. There are also maps of Milledgeville dating back to 1889, as well as blueprints to some of the old buildings at Central State Hospital down the street.

Another possibly unknown resource offered to GC students is the free online subscription to The New York Times. By going to The New York Times website and inputting their Bobcat email and Unify password, students can enjoy

a paywall-free subscription to The New York Times and its accompanying app.

Last but not least, many students do not know that cameras, projectors, iPads, MacBook chargers and other utilities can be rented from the library front desk.

Junior Sara Grace Braswell, a nursing major, said that she rented an iPad for an entire semester during her sophomore year. She knew about the resources available, like Ancestry, because one day she was surfing the databases of PAWS.

"I would rent the

projectors all the time for movie nights because we don't have a TV, and we would just rent a projector and use our laptops to project it on a whole wall," Braswell said.

Braswell felt strongly about these resources being utilized by students.

"How often do you get a chance to not be a mass comm major but rent a super nice camera for free, for a whole week, or for however long you want to keep it, because you can keep renewing it?"



Do you work for Georgia College?

Duo is coming to OneUSG Connect in April.

Enroll now before it is mandatory. Check unify.gcsu.edu for details.



“Yankee Hotel Foxtrot” by Wilco

By Benjamin Monckton

Few contemporary monuments could articulate the life of an American following the wake of 9/11 as well as Wilco’s fourth studio album “Yankee Hotel Foxtrot.”

Embodying a collective

theme, this album is as relevant to an aging veteran as it is to a coming-of-age student. “Yankee Hotel Foxtrot” is perhaps among the greatest American albums to be released in the 21st century.

Jeff Tweedy’s songwriting

has always been a refraction of Americana, with Dylan-esque lyricism and contemporary folk instrumentation. “Yankee Hotel Foxtrot” is perhaps Tweedy’s magnum opus. Though it was written before 9/11, the 2002 album had unintended relevance following the attacks and the declared War on Terror.

The lyricism is the record’s main focus. Through a lens of resentment, longing and fear, Tweedy’s observations blend with free association. The lyrics embody the collective thoughts of a nation, condensing them into a 51-minute emotional, introspective journey. Tweedy’s weathered vocals bring to life the thoughts you had always had but never spoke.

The song “War on War”

is rich in instrumentation: glockenspiel, strings, a Wurlitzer and even some looped Morse code running through Roland synthesizers. The album demands a variety of mood conversions, shifting from hopeless defeat on “Ashes of American Flags” to the joyous optimism of “Heavy Metal Drummer” and lighthearted “I’m the Man Who Loves You.”

The listener experiences the purest joys next to the deepest despairs, much like reading high school journal entries back to back or fast forwarding through a movie. The record is deeply humanizing, affirming an ode to the joy of youth and the longing to find it again.

As Tweedy salute “the ashes of American flags,” a tear may

drip down your face. By the time he laments the innocence of “playing Kiss covers, beautiful and stoned,” that tear will have made it to your mouth, which is now stretched across your face. Through wavy radio static, Tweedy examines the collective struggle to communicate with friends, his lovers and himself.

Perhaps one of the greatest artistic achievements of our time, “Yankee Hotel Foxtrot” depicts a will to love, but lacking the required strength to surface. The album surpasses review, belonging instead to each and every soul who listens to it. In a world of superficiality and distractions, you can count on this album to always tell the truth—that no, it’s not okay.



“I would go to Spain because it’s beautiful, and the history is amazing. I love the Spanish language, so it would be interesting to be completely immersed in it.”
- Bryce Steele, freshman and public health major

“I would go to London because it is beautiful, and I want to see where the royals stroll around and visit iconic locations.”
- Maggie Martin, freshman and early childhood education major



WHERE DO YOU WANT TO STUDY ABROAD?

Compiled by Katie O’Neal

“I would study abroad in Finland because the culture is just so different than any other place, and it’s very interesting.”
- Adam Bachman, freshman and computer science major



“I would probably go to Italy because I am really interested in the culture there, and the art is such a big influence on the country.”
- Claire Tadeo, junior and art major

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